

designated term within which the borrower is required to begin construction, and if construction is begun as required, the commitment shall be effective for such additional period, estimated by the Commissioner, as will allow for completion of construction.

(3) The term of a firm commitment may be extended in such a manner as the Commissioner may prescribe.

[61 FR 14417, Apr. 1, 1996]

**§ 241.515 Inspection fee.**

The firm commitment may provide for the payment of an inspection fee in an amount not to exceed \$5 per thousand dollars of the commitment. If an inspection fee is required, it shall be paid as follows:

(a) If the case involves the insurance of advances, it shall be paid at the time of initial endorsement.

(b) If the case involves insurance upon completion, it shall be paid prior to the date construction is begun.

**§ 241.520 Fees on increases.**

(a) *Increase in firm commitment prior to endorsement.* An application filed prior to initial endorsement (or prior to endorsement in a case involving insurance upon completion), for an increase in the amount of an outstanding firm commitment shall be accompanied by a combined additional application and commitment fee. This combined additional fee shall be in an amount which will aggregate \$3 per thousand dollars of the amount of the requested increase. If an inspection fee was required in the original commitment, an additional inspection fee shall be paid in an amount computed at the same dollar rate per thousand dollars of the amount of increase in commitment as was used for the inspection fee required in the original commitment. When insurance of advances is involved, the additional inspection fee shall be paid at time of initial endorsement. When insurance upon completion is involved, the additional inspection fee shall be paid prior to the date construction is begun or if construction has begun, it shall be paid with the application for increase.

(b) *Increase in loan between initial and final endorsement.* Upon an application, filed between initial and final endorse-

ment, for an increase in the amount of the loan, either by amendment or by substitution of a new loan, a combined additional application and commitment fee shall accompany the application. This combined additional fee shall be in an amount which will aggregate \$3 per thousand dollars of the amount of the increase requested. If an inspection fee was required in the original commitment, an additional inspection fee shall accompany the application in an amount not to exceed \$5 per thousand dollars of the amount of the increase requested.

**§ 241.525 Refund of fees.**

If the amount of the commitment issued or an increase in loan prior to endorsement is less than the amount applied for, the Commissioner shall refund the excess amount of the application and commitment fees submitted by the applicant. If an application is rejected before it is assigned for processing, or in such other instances as the Commissioner may determine, the entire application and commitment fees or any portion thereof may be returned to the applicant. Commitment, inspection, and reopening fees may be refunded, in whole or in part if it is determined by the Commissioner that the installation of energy conserving improvements for the project has been prevented because of condemnation proceedings or other legal action taken by a governmental body or public agency, or in such other instances as the Commissioner may determine.

**§ 241.530 Maximum fees and charges by lender.**

The lender may collect from the borrower the amount of the fees provided for in this subpart. The lender may also collect from the borrower an initial service charge in an amount not to exceed 2 percent of the original principal amount of the loan to reimburse the lender for the cost of originating and closing the transaction. Any additional charges shall be subject to the prior approval of the Commissioner.